

Exporting Good Will And A Good Taste

Locals gather to turn out a tasty, helpful product

Jean Croasmun, *Courier Staff*

They're a dedicated group of souls, meeting the second Wednesday of each month for lunch. And every one of them will openly admit why they're there—they come for the food.

But it's not what you might think. The food they come for is pretty plain. Simple sandwiches, sometimes ham, sometimes tuna, rarely turkey because it goes bad so quickly. And rarely do any of them intend to eat the sandwiches, not because the sandwiches are bad but because these folks come to create sandwiches that will ultimately be sent to Salt Lake, to feed the homeless at the Salvation Army soup kitchen downtown.

"You see a gal come in with little kids and it just breaks your heart," says the group's organizer, Jan Smith, who has been working on the sandwich-making effort since its start seven or eight years ago. No one's admitting the exact date they started the project because to them, it really doesn't matter when they started making sandwiches, just so they continue.

Members of the group, open to anyone willing to donate a single hour of his or her time once a month, started meeting years ago at St. Lawrence's Catholic Church in Heber to make sandwiches for the Salt Lake shelter. Now, years later, the program is still going strong.

"How about that time you made tuna for 500..." says Denise Peck, who has been helping with the activity for years. This week, Peck's responsibility was to procure the bread—over 1000 pieces, for



Betty and Jim Abgruzzese wrap and box the sandwiches headed for the Salt Lake Salvation Army soup kitchen.

the loaves that will be taken to Salt Lake later that day.

"We like to change it up," says Smith, admitting that the tuna sandwiches were a hit with the shelter's clientele, but not with her. She, Peck and some of the

others had to stir the tuna salad in huge industrial-sized bowls to make enough to go around. "They say our sandwiches are some of the best, though" says Smith.

The Salvation Army's soup kitchen receives sandwiches daily from different

churches and organizations. Each day, the soup kitchen makes its own soup, but it's up to these volunteer organizations to ensure that 500 sandwiches, and sometimes other goodies, get to the shelter.

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New Day Lodge For Soldier Hollow

Plans and funding are solidified for construction of day lodge at Soldier Hollow

Shannon Taylor, *Courier Staff*

After months of research and committee meetings, the final pieces of the Soldier Hollow puzzle are beginning to fall into place. Several people in and around Wasatch County have been working arduously towards finding out what must be done to make Soldier Hollow a successful and functional part of the Wasatch County community.

After examining facilities all over the world that have hosted Winter Olympics in the past, as well as communicating with the managers and designers of these facilities, Wasatch County representatives found that one of the most important components missing from the current Soldier Hollow venue is a day lodge.

According to Courtland Nelson, Director of Utah's Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation, the most frequently heard comment was that having a day lodge up and running prior to the Olympic events would be the most beneficial aspect of the post-Olympic seasons.

There are three things that Nelson, along with others involved in the Soldier Hollow development like Olympic Coordinator, Bob Mathis, and Wasatch Economic Development Organization Board Member, Robyn Pearson, feel are essential to the venue's post-Olympic success. The first is the construction of an appropriate facility on the site, a day lodge.

This facility should not only be well suited to the needs of the venue, but should also serve to encourage visitors,



While the Soldier Hollow venue is already hosting games, a new day lodge will hopefully ensure continued use, even after the Olympic games

without directly competing with other area businesses, like restaurants and lodgings.

The second component vital to Soldier Hollow's future success is the addition of "Citizen Trails," or trails that will accommodate the average person in the areas of skiing, snow shoeing, hiking and mountain biking. While there are already trails in place for the elite athletes, not all members of the community fit into this category. The develop-

ment of lower impact trails will open up the venue to the use of a much wider variety of people.

The third part of the climb to a successful cross country skiing facility is making sure that local amenities are easily accessible from the venue. A major part of this will include making use of the Heber Valley Railroad. In obtaining funding for the new day lodge, it was decided that it would be wise to include a request for additional funding to be

used for a new train depot. Standing alone, it is questionable as to whether or not the day lodge or the new depot would have been giving any monetary government support, but as a package deal, the chances were increased dramatically.

It is through this package deal that Wasatch County received approval for \$700,000 for the day lodge and \$260,000 for the new train depot. Nelson says he was told that these are the only two facilities that were approved for government funding in the most recent Senatorial meetings. Nelson and Pearson both feel that, with the combination of support from Senators Beverly Evans, Gordon Snow and Dave Ure, and the success and timing of last September's legislative visit to Wasatch County, the subsequent approval of money for Soldier Hollow can be added to a short list of small miracles.

As far as the actual design and location of this new day lodge are concerned, much of that is still up in the air. The location will, of course, be on the grounds of Soldier Hollow, about 100 yards behind the score board. The design is likely to include a small kitchen, which will serve to assist caterers when working with various events, and a place for equipment rental, such as skis and snow shoes, in addition to rooms available for public gatherings.

While there is not a date scheduled for completion of the new day lodge and train depot, however, Pearson would be thrilled to have the construction completed for next winter. **M**